GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4693
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008
COMMITTEE ON BIO DIESEL
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a committee in regard to development of Bio-diesel;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CHANDRA SHEKHAR SAHU)

(a) In July 2002, the Planning Commission had constituted a Committee on Development of Bio-fuels to suggest strategy and approach for promotion of bio-fuels on commercial scale.

(b) & (c) The Committee submitted its report in April 2003, wherein it was recommended that a National Mission on Bio-diesel, with special focus on the plantation of jatropha curcas, be launched in two phases. Phase I would be a demonstration project involving promotion of jatropha curcas cultivation in forest and non-forest areas (2 lakh hectares each) especially on waste and degraded lands over a period of 5 years. This would be followed by the second phase which would be a self-sustaining programme with plantation of jatropha in 11.2 million hectares, both in government and private lands for production of bio-diesel to achieve a target of 20% blending with petroleum-diesel.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the Nodal Ministry to operationalize the recommendations of the Committee. Accordingly, the Ministry of Rural Development has proposed to launch the Demonstration Phase of the National Mission on Bio-diesel. The proposal envisages promotion of jatropha (Ratanjot) and pongamia (Karanj) plantations on 5 lakh hectares in degraded forest areas and non-forest public wastelands over a period of 5 years and at a total estimated cost of Rs.1500 crore.A